

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00  
NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
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/090 W

-----191329Z 084575 /47

O P 191220Z MAY 77  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1745  
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AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY  
CINCPAC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 5179

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PK  
SUBJECT: POLITICAL SITUATION IN PAKISTAN

1. SUMMARY: MAJOR DALIES IN PAKISTAN TODAY CARRIED AN  
INTERVIEW WITH GHULAM MUSTAFA KHAR, FORMER PUNJAB GOVERNOR  
AND CHIEF MINISTER IN WHICH HE DENOUNCED THE PAKISTAN  
NATIONAL ALLIANCE (PNA) WITHOUT THROWING IN HIS LOT WITH  
BHUTTO. A SMALL, PEACEFUL ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATION  
TOOK PLACE OUTSIDE OF THE AMERICAN CENTER IN RAWALPINDI  
ON MAY 18. SOME PNA LEADERS HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO THE  
SIHALA REST HOUSE WHERE BHUTTO REPORTEDLY MET WITH MUFTI  
MAHMOOD DURING THE EVENING OF MAY 18. ALSO ON THE EVENING OF  
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THE 18TH THE PIR OF PAGARO RELEASED A HARD-LINE STATEMENT TO  
THE PRESS WHICH SEEMS, FOR THE MOMENT, TO CLOSE THE DOOR ON  
NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PM AND CALLS FOR RENEWED DEMONSTRATIONS  
ON FRIDAY, MAY 20. TWO PROCESSIONS HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED FOR  
FRIDAY IN PESHAWAR. END SUMMARY.

2. MAJOR DAILIES TODAY CARRIED AN INTERVIEW WITH FORMER

PUNJAB GOVERNOR AND CHIEF MINISTER, AND ONE TIME PUTATIVE POLITICAL HEIR TO THE PM, GHULAM MUSTAFA KHAR. IN A WIDE RANGING PRESS CONFERENCE KHAR DENOUNCED THE PNA WITHOUT, AT THE SAME TIME, FULLY EMBRACING THE POSITION OF BHUTTO.

3. AMONG OTHER THINGS, KHAR SAID THAT THE OPPOSITION HAS FAILED TO PROVIDE A CORRECT SENSE OF DIRECTION DURING THE CURRENT CRISIS. KHAR SAID THAT THE OPPOSITION SHOULD HAVE EMBRACED THE BAKHTIAR FORMULA (WHICH PROPOSED IMMEDIATELY HOLDING NEW PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS AND, IF THE PNA WON A MAJORITY OF THE TOTAL VOTES CAST, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WOULD BE DISSOLVED AND NEW ELECTIONS SCHEDULED) THROUGH WHICH THEY COULD HAVE WON MANY CONCESSIONS FOR THE NATION EVEN IF THEY LOST THE ELECTION. ALTHOUGH THERE WERE NO DIRECT ATTACKS ON THE P.M., BHUTTO COULD HAVE FOUND LITTLE COMFORT IN KHAR'S REMARKS. THE GOVERNMENT, ACCORDING TO KHAR, WOULD HAVE FOUND IT VERY DIFFICULT TO WIN ELECTIONS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE ARMY AND THE JUDICIARY. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PRESS CONFERENCE KHAR RESIGNED AS SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF THE MUSLIM LEAGUE (PML) ONE OF THE CONSTITUENT PARTIES OF THE PNA.

4. ALTHOUGH KHAR GAVE UP A POSITION OF INFLUENCE IN THE PNA BY RESIGNING AS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE PML, HE DID NOT LOSE THAT MUCH. BECAUSE OF HIS FORMER ASSOCIATION WITH BHUTTO AND HIS UNSAVORY REPUTATION HE WAS NEVER FULLY TRUSTED AS A MEMBER OF THE PNA AND PROBABLY FELT THAT HIS FUTURE WITHIN THAT ALLIANCE WAS IN DOUBT. BY CASTING HIMSELF OFF FROM THE PNA HE OPENS UP TWO POSSIBILITIES FOR HIMSELF. THE FIRST WOULD BE TO MOVE TO ESTABLISH HIMSELF AS AN INDEPENDENT FORCE ON

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THE PAKISTAN POLITICAL SCENE AND WAIT TO MAKE THE BEST DEAL FOR HIMSELF WHEN THE VICTOR IN THE CURRENT DISPUTE EMERGES. THE SECOND POSSIBILITY WOULD BE TO JOIN WITH BHUTTO FULLY NOW IF BHUTTO MAKES THE RIGHT OFFER. THE DAILY JANG CARRIED A STORY THIS MORNING INDICATING THAT KHAR MAY BE IN CONSIDERATION AS THE NEW GOVERNOR OF THE PUNJAB. IF HE IS OFFERED THIS POST, WE BELIEVE HE WILL PROBABLY ACCEPT. MOST POLITICAL OBSERVERS QUESTION WHETHER BHUTTO WILL REALLY MAKE THE OFFER. KHAR CLEARLY HAS ATTRIBUTES WHICH WOULD MAKE HIM A DESIRABLE MEMBER OF THE BHUTTO CAMP IN THE PUNJAB. HE IS RUTHLESS AND WOULD HELP RULE THE PUNJAB WITH A FIRM AND UNCOMPROMISING HAND. HOWEVER, HE IS WIDELY DISLIKED IN THE PUNJAB AND HIS APPOINTMENT AS GOVERNOR WOULD SCARCELY MAKE THE PRIME MINISTER MORE POPULAR IN THAT PROVINCE. FURTHERMORE, ALTHOUGH KHAR AND BHUTTO HAVE BEEN ALLIES IN THE PAST, THE DISSOLUTION OF THAT ALLIANCE BROUGHT WITH IT A GREAT DEAL OF PERSONAL BITTERNESS AND MISTRUST.

5. THERE WAS A SMALL PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF THE

AMERICAN CENTER IN RAWALPINDI ON MAY 18. DURING THE THREE HOUR DEMONSTRATION MEMBERS OF THE INQILABI (REVOLUTIONARY) STUDENTS ACTION COUNCIL OF KARACHI AND THE YOUNG STUDENTS FRONT OF THE PUNJAB STOOD IN FRONT OF THE CENTER HOLDING ANTI-AMERICAN BANNERS. A PETITION WAS ALSO DELIVERED TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER. THE MAY 19 PAKISTAN TIMES CARRIED FRONT PAGE COVERAGE OF THE DEMONSTRATION.

6. SOME PNA LEADERS HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO THE SIHALA REST HOUSE OUTSIDE OF RAWALPINDI. THOSE PRESENT NOW INCLUDE MUFTI MAHMOOD AND NASRULLAH KHAN. JANG REPORTS THAT PROFESSOR GHAFUOR WILL BE BROUGHT TO SIHALA TODAY. ALTHOUGH JANG REPORTED THAT BHUTTO MET WITH MUFTI MAHMOOD ON THE EVENING OF THE 18TH FOR APPROXIMATELY 90 MINUTES, THE PIR OF PAGARO, IN A HARD-LINE STATEMENT TO THE PRESS ISSUED ON MAY 18 IN WHICH HE REJECTED THE CALL FOR A REFERENDUM AND DENOUNCED BHUTTO AS A TYRANT, SEEMS TO SLAM THE DOOR ON ANY FURTHER  
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NEGOTIATIONS WITH BHUTTO FOR THE MOMENT. PIR SAHIB'S PRESS RELEASE ALSO CALLS FOR NEW DEMONSTRATIONS COUNTRYWIDE ON MAY 20. ACCORDING TO NAWA-I-WAGT TWO PROCESSIONS HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED FOR PESHAWAR ON THAT DAY.

3. IN GOP PRESS RELEASES THE SITUATION IN ALL THREE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTERED CITIES HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS QUIET AND PEACEFUL. THERE WERE NO INCIDENTS REPORTED IN ANY OF THE CITIES.

3. THE DAILY PRESS CONTAINED LITTLE IN THE WAY OF ANTI-AMERICAN ARTICLES TODAY. THE OFFICIAL PPP PAPER, MUSAWAT, ONCE AGAIN CONTAINED ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE U.S. AN ARTICLE TODAY ATTACKS THOSE AMERICAN EXPERTS IN PAKISTAN ON VARIOUS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WHO HAVE REDUCED THEIR ACTIVITIES WHILE THE EXPERTS OF OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE CONTINUED IN A FULL RANGE OF ACTIVITY.  
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